Last Updated: April 23, 2019

New Zealand Multisport - ONAP

21 days: Auckland to Wellington

What's Included

- Your G for Good Moment: Resourceful Ōtautahi Walking Tour, Christchurch
- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Local Living Moment: Maori Village Overnight Visit, Rotorua
- Your Discover Moment: Franz Josef
- Your Discover Moment: Queenstown
- Cycling through Karangahake Gorge
- Traditional hangi dinner and marae greeting
- Tongariro Alpine Crossing hiking excursion (weather dependent)
- Jet boating and kayaking along Whanganui River
- Water taxi to Abel Tasman NP
- Sea kayaking in Abel Tasman NP
- Routeburn Track hiking excursion
- Fiordland NP visit
- Milford Sound cruise
- Cycling the Otago Rail Trail
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing June 5th, 2017 and onwards

Itinerary

NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1 Auckland

Arrive at any time.

Jump right into your adventure by adding the 'Auckland Sailing: America's Cup Experience' extra to your tour. Work with a crew to sail around Auckland's Waitemata Harbour on a competitive yacht, and take in the stunning views. PLEASE NOTE: If booking this extra, a pre-night in Auckland is highly recommended as this activity may start early in the morning on Day 1.

This tour departs Auckland early on Day 2. If you are interested in exploring the city and its nearby attractions, like the Hobbiton Movie Set or local wineries, it is recommended you book additional pre-trip accommodation nights.

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group
19:00
Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Optional Activities - Day 1

Waiheke Island Excursion
Waiheke Island3h-8h
45-130NZD per person
Take a ferry ride to Waiheke Island for a quick, fun getaway. Swim or kayak at white-sand beaches in the Hauraki Gulf. Tour the island's tracks and bush reserves, or sample your way through some of the island's 19 boutique wineries (the island produces some of New Zealand's finest reds).

Auckland Sailing: America's Cup Experience (Pre Tour)
Auckland
195NZD per person
As part of the boat crew, you'll work together with your teammates to sail around Auckland's Waitemata Harbour in this competitive yacht. Either take the helm and participate or sit back and enjoy the spectacle - the choice is yours.

Day 2 Auckland/Rotorua

Enjoy a morning cycle through Karangahake Gorge, then travel to the Rotorua region to the Tamaki Maori Village. After a traditional greeting on the marae (meeting grounds), learn the arts of the haka and poi before a traditional hangi dinner.

In the evening visit a Maori village for traditional ceremonies, a Hangi meal and entertainment. After dinner, lounge by the bonfire and have some time to get to know the Maori hosts.

Accommodation is in a Maori wharepuni (sleeping house). Groups will often stay together in one sleeping house (multi-share, mixed gender), staying in line with Maori traditions.

Private Vehicle
Auckland – Waihi2h-3h Morning
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Karangahake Gorge Cycling
Karangahake Gorge1h-2h 8km
Enjoy beautiful scenery on this interesting ride through Karangahake Gorge that combines history, nature, and adventure all in one trip! Follow the historic Paeroa to Waihi rail line. Cycle old lines and through a tunnel along the river that runs through the gorge. Take it easy, if you wish – this trail is suitable for cyclists with little experience and offers lots to take in on the way.

Please note that an E-bike upgrade is available at an additional cost of NZ $50. This can be arranged with the CEO on Day 1 of the trip at the welcome meeting.

Private Vehicle
Waihi – Rotorua2h-2h30m120km
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Your Local Living Moment: Maori Village Overnight Visit
Visit the Mitai Maori Village. Receive the traditional Powhiri welcome ceremony followed by a captivating stage performance explaining Maori history and culture. For dinner, enjoy a traditional Hangi meal, similar to the Hawaiian Luau, with dishes cooked in the ground. After, enjoy some quiet time with our Maori hosts by a fire.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 3 Rotorua

Enjoy a free day in Rotorua, a town in a geothermal area with boiling mud and hotpools. Opt to go whitewater rafting, tackle an offroad mountain bike track, go hiking, or hit the spa.

This region of New Zealand is renowned for its geothermal qualities. Enjoy free time to experience the regions' geothermal wonders. Opt to mountain bike in the world famous Redwood Forest, go white water rafting, or indulge in the therapeutic hot springs.

Free Time
Rotorua Afternoon
Enjoy free time in Rotorua to enjoy one of the many optional activities available in the area.

Optional Activities - Day 3
Mountain Biking
Rotorua2h-4h
35-130NZD per person
Head out on an exhilarating cycling adventure. Explore the stunning Redwood Forest on two wheels on what some call the world's best mountain biking trails. Whether you're a beginner or expert mountain bike enthusiast there's sure to be a trail perfect for you.

Whitewater Rafting
Rotorua2h-3h
115NZD per person
Get your adrenaline fix on this exhilarating white water rafting trip. Enjoy the amazing scenery along the way, but don't forget to paddle!

Hot Springs
Rotorua
30-50NZD per person
Soak tired muscles in the area's natural hot springs and let the mineral water work its magic. Rotorua is home to a number of amazing geothermal parks – be sure you don't miss the healing and relaxing benefits of the city's naturally heated waters.

Hells Gate Geothermal Park
Rotorua
35-90NZD per person
Experience a unique Maori owned geothermal, cultural, and geothermal mud bath spa, with erupting waters, steaming fumaroles and pools of boiling mud.

Zorbing
Rotorua1h-1h30m
45-75NZD per person
Hop into a giant inflatable ball and take a thrilling ride down Mt Ngongotaha. This outrageously fun and bizarre ride is a must-do when in Rotorua, so don't miss out!

Hobbiton Tour
Rotorua4h-5h
112NZD per person
Enjoy a 2-hour movie set tour and see where major scenes from The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit were filmed.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4 Rotorua/Tongariro National Park

Conquer the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, New Zealand's top-rated 1-day trek and spend the afternoon hiking an active volcano.

Mt Tongariro's rocky, dramatic landscapes make this day-long trek truly one of New Zealand's "Great Walks", passing emerald lakes and beautiful alpine scenery. Start early and collect supplies before heading out. The transfer will drop the group off at the beginning of the self-guided trek and collect everyone at the other end. After the trek, travel to a ski lodge on the side of a mountain for the night and opt for a hot soak to ease those tired muscles.

Note: The Tongariro Alpine Crossing Trek is highly weather dependent and will take place only if conditions are safe to do so. Alternate activities for inclement weather will be arranged.

Private Vehicle
Rotorua – Tongariro National Park3h180km
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Tongariro Alpine Crossing Trek
Tongariro Crossing5h-6h30m 19-20km
Enjoy spectacular views and otherworldly landscapes on this challenging and rewarding 19.4km (12 mi) trek across a volcanic range. This trek has been called one of the best day hikes in the world. Get prepared before you head out – go through a safety checklist and be sure to buy supplies, food, and water ahead of time. Dress accordingly – elements change constantly.

Note: if the weather is too bad to trek, there will be alternative options such as smaller walks in the area or a visit to remote hot springs. If you do not wish to do the Tongariro Crossing, other activities can be arranged.

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Day 5 Tongariro National Park/Whanganui National Park

Experience another of New Zealand's "Great Walks" (this time, from a canoe) on a day trip into the heart of Whanganui National Park.

Begin the day by travelling to Blue Duck Station, a working farm and nature conservancy that serves as our gateway to Whanganui National Park.

Weather permitting, paddle along the Whanganui River - the third longest in New Zealand - as it flows out to the west coast of the North Island from Mt Tongariro. Opt to take a canoe or kayak. Don't forget your camera!

On rainy days, groups may take a guided tour around Blue Duck Station to learn about the region's natural history, conservation efforts for indigenous wildlife (including the endangered New Zealand blue duck), sustainable farming practices and, if weather permits, a short kayak through the gorge at the base of the Kaiwhakauka Falls.

Note: While in Whanganui National Park, the order and length of activities on Days 5 & 6 may vary according to weather conditions.

Whanganui River Journey
Whanganui River3h-5h
Grab a paddle and life jacket and journey along the famous Whanganui River – New Zealand's third longest river. Soak in the wildlife and scenery, seemingly untouched by modern day. It's a great way to unwind and pack in a little more Kiwi adventure. (Note: actual distance and time of the paddle may vary according to weather conditions.)

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 6 Whanganui National Park/Raetihi

Explore the Whanganui River further by jet boat, visiting old Maori and European settlements.

In the morning, trade the canoe for a jet boat and continue exploring the picturesque Whanganui River. During short walks or stops en route, learn about the region's history and local conservation efforts. If weather permits, head out for a visit to the abandoned Bridge to Nowhere. Return to Blue Duck Station before travelling on to Snowy Waters Lodge for the night. Enjoy a delicious dinner.

Note: While in Whanganui National Park, the order and length of activities on Days 5 & 6 may vary according to weather conditions.

Private Vehicle
Whanganui National Park – Raetihi1h30m
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Whanganui River Jet Boating
Whanganui River3h-4h 50km
Have fun and hold on! Fulfill your need for speed travelling down the amazingly scenic Whanganui River by jet boat.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 7 Raetihi/Wellington

In the morning, transfer to Wellington and visit the Te Papa museum, dedicated to the history and culture of New Zealand.

Private Vehicle
Raetihi – Wellington4h310km
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Te Papa Museum Visit
Wellington1h-2h
Visit this must-see museum, home to displays of historical Maori artifacts and modern exhibits. See how the museum is constructed on shock absorbers to withstand New Zealand’s many earthquakes – find the stairwell just outside the entrance and descend into the foundations of the building.

Free Time
Wellington Evening
Enjoy free time to explore the city of Wellington, and take in the best that the area has to offer.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8 Wellington/Abel Tasman National Park

Travel by ferry to the South Island and then transfer by bus and water taxi into Abel Tasman National Park.

Ferry
Wellington – Picton3h30m Morning92km
Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Water Taxi
Cook Strait – Abel Tasman National Park
Jump in and cross the water to the next stop.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 9 Abel Tasman National Park/Marahau

Sea kayak in Abel Tasman out to the edge of the park.

Start the day with a short hike before setting off from the beach to kayak along the Abel Tasman coastline towards Marahau.

Kayaking to Marahau
Abel Tasman National Park – Marahau2h-3h
See Abel Tasman National Park at a pleasant pace by sea kayak. Take part in a safety briefing and preparation, then head out into the water to glide in and out of the bays and islets on the route to Marahau. Look for nesting seabirds and tiny islands, and enjoy amazing views along the way.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 10 Marahau/Westland District

Enjoy the scenery of the mountainous coastal Westland region, and stop en route to see the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks.

Private Vehicle
Marahau – Paparoa National Park3h-4h
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Seal Colony Visit
Cape Foulwind30m 1-2km
Stop by a viewing platform over a New Zealand fur seal colony at Cape Foulwind. Female seals will live in the same colony for the duration of their lives, whereas male seals move around more. The males visit the Cape Foulwind colony between late November and mid-January for mating season. All seasons offer plenty of activity to check out, from mating to the raising of baby pups and feeding out at sea.

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Day 11 Westland District/Franz Josef

Transfer to Franz Josef, stopping for a walk at the wildlife mecca of Okarito Lagoon en route. Enjoy free time for optional activities such as hiking and checking out the stunning Franz Josef Glacier.

Continue south along the coast towards Franz Josef, stopping for an invigorating walk at the wildlife mecca of Okarito Lagoon. Spend 2 nights staying amongst verdant temperate rainforest.

Private Vehicle
Lake Brunner – Franz Josef4h220km
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Okarito Lagoon Walk
Franz Josef1h-2h 10km
Walk through the wetlands of Okarito Lagoon, bordered by forest and surrounded by nature. Enjoy spectacular views all the way up to the mountains on a clear day. Take the time to soak in the scenery – the walk is a short climb up to a viewpoint that includes a variety of landscapes on the path through the estuary out through the wetlands.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 12 Franz Josef

A free day for optional activities. Options include various hikes, horseback riding, kayaking as well as the unique and stunning Franz Josef Glacier.

Your Discover Moment
Franz Josef Full Day
There's plenty to see and do in Franz Josef, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like a glacial hike, quad biking, and a helicopter hike. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Optional Activities - Day 12
Hiking
Franz Josef30m-8h 3-17km
Free

Take your pick of many scenic and memorable treks in Franz Josef – a true hiker's haven. Get prepared before heading out, and be mindful of signs along the track. See majestic mountains, glaciers, rivers, and amazing views that you'll definitely want your camera on hand for.

Horseback Riding
Franz Josef
65-150NZD per person
Hop in the saddle and explore Franz Josef's amazing glacier landscape on horseback. Ride amid rainforests and mountain scenery, and enjoy fresh open air and natural beauty on this unforgettable trip.

Heli Scenic Flight with Snow Landing
Franz Josef15m-30m
330-425NZD per person
Take a once-in-a-lifetime helicopter ride high up on Franz Josef Glacier. Hop out on the snow to soak up the experience, before flying back to land. Cool!

Franz Josef Glacier Valley Walk
Franz Josef
79NZD per person
Enjoy spectacular views on a guided interpretive walk that follows a riverbed along the Franz Josef Glacier's retreat. At the end, you'll be rewarded with a great view of the glacier off in the distance.

Franz Josef Kayaking
Franz Josef3h-4h
130NZD per person
Explore the stunning Lake Mapourika by kayak. This lake was created as the Franz Josef glacier retreated 14,000 years ago, and the still water has created a natural mirror allowing you to soak in the incredible panoramic views.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 13 Franz Josef/Wanaka

Transfer to Wanaka, where there are a variety of optional activities available. Opt to go mountain biking, skydiving, or check out the giant maze and optical illusions of Puzzling World.

Te Wahipounamu Visit
Makarora1h-2h
Tour the mountainous wilderness of Te Wahipounamu, a true natural wonder. See for yourself the views that make New Zealand famous - jagged mountains, snowy peaks, and clear blue waters. Wander among fjords, rocky coasts, towering cliffs, lakes, and waterfalls, and enjoy breathtaking scenery. Don't forget your camera!

Private Vehicle
Franz Josef – Wanaka5h-5h30m290km
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Optional Activities - Day 13
Puzzling World Visit
Wanaka
27-30NZD per person
Challenge your perception of reality and experience the world-famous Great Maze through bizarre buildings and rooms of illusion.

Scenic Bike Ride
Wanaka
60NZD per person
Pedal around at a leisurely pace and enjoy the scenery.

Skydiving
Wanaka
Scenic Boat Cruise
Wanaka
Hiking
Wanaka 4-5km
The Mount Iron Track is an iconic Wanaka walk. This very popular loop walk offers excellent 360 - degree views from the summit.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 14 Wanaka/Queenstown

Continue onto the "adventure capital of the world," Queenstown.

Free day to maximize time for all the optional activities in the area. Opt for a jet boat outing, bungee jumping, mountain biking, sky diving, or a vineyard tour. The options in this adventure capital are endless. Two nights are at a centrally-located hostel, which means you can make the most of your time here.

Private Vehicle
Wanaka – Queenstown3h130km
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time
Queenstown Afternoon
Enjoy free time to try some of the challenging optional activities available in the “adventure capital of the world.”

Optional Activities - Day 14
Bungee Jumping
Queenstown1h30m-4h
265-450NZD per person
Adrenaline junkies will be happy with a stop at the world's original commercial bungee site (bungy in New Zealand!). Opt to take the plunge or simply observe where it all started from the comfort of solid ground. Shoot some amazing photos of those brave enough to dive into the abyss.

Paragliding
Queenstown15m-30m
210NZD per person
Hang on! Get a birds-eye view of Queenstown on an exciting ride in the sky.

Shotover Jet Boating
Queenstown1h30m-2h
159NZD per person
Jet boating is a typical New Zealand activity— go as fast you can in a boat over water. Hang on tight as you fly across the surface of the water. Shoot through narrow rocky gorges and dare to watch as the driver takes hairpin turns frighteningly close to the cliffs.

Skydiving
Queenstown
420-520NZD per person
Enjoy the awe-inspiring beauty of Queenstown from an eagle's perspective. Suit up, get briefed and board the prop plane to soar high about the rugged alpine landscape. Strap onto your instructor, take a breath and leap into a once-in-a-lifetime free fall. This is what a natural high truly feels like!

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 15 Queenstown

Enjoy a full-day hiking excursion along the world renowned Routeburn Track, taking in the gorgeous mountains, valleys, waterfalls, and lakes surrounding the track.

Routeburn Track Day Hike
Routeburn Track 13-18km
Head out for a day of hiking along the stunning Routeburn Track. Start on a gradual incline through a 130 million year old forest, with incredible views of snow capped mountains, cascading waterfalls, crystal clear streams, and alpine meadows. After enjoying a picnic lunch, continue on the forgotten paths of the Maori while travelling along their old 'Greenstone' trails. With incredible scenery and historical significance, this hike is not one to miss!

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 16 Queenstown

Enjoy a free day for optional activities in Queenstown.

Your Discover Moment
Queenstown Full Day
There's plenty to see and do in Queenstown, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like mountain biking, bungee jumping, and jet boating. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Optional Activities - Day 16
Mountain Biking
Queenstown1h-6h
31.50-140.00NZD per person

Hop on a bike and get familiar with some of the great trails in the area. There are routes for all levels of cyclist to enjoy so rent a and start exploring the hills.

Bungee Jumping
Queenstown1h30m-4h
265-450NZD per person
Adrenaline junkies will be happy with a stop at the world's original commercial bungee site (bungy in New Zealand!). Opt to take the plunge or simply observe where it all started from the comfort of solid ground. Shoot some amazing photos of those brave enough to dive into the abyss.

Vineyard Tour
Queenstown5h-7h
210-230NZD per person
Visit vineyards in New Zealand's fastest growing wine region. Taste some of Queenstown's finest Pinot Noir, as well as Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc and learn more about the grape varietals that flourish here. Pick up a few bottles to savour back home.

Ziptrek
Queenstown
120-170NZD per person
Canyon Swing
Queenstown
205NZD per person
Get your heart racing as you launch yourself from the world's highest canyon swing. Free fall for 60m before a 200m swing across Shotover Canyon. See you at the other side!

Shotover Jet Boating
Queenstown1h30m-2h
159NZD per person
Jet boating is a typical New Zealand activity— go as fast you can in a boat over water. Hang on tight as you fly across the surface of the water. Shoot through narrow rocky gorges and dare to watch as the driver takes hairpin turns frighteningly close to the cliffs.

Scenic Horse Riding Tour
Queenstown
220NZD per person
Unwind on a scenic horse trek through Queenstown’s stunning scenery.

Gondola Ride
Queenstown1h-2h30m
52-79NZD per person
Take a ride up to the top of the mountain by cable car gondola. Get a spectacular 220º view of Coronet Peak, the Remarkables mountain range, and Lake Wakatipu below.

Shotover Canyon Swing
Queenstown2h30m-3h30m
259NZD per person
The ultimate in adrenaline activities, this is the world’s highest cliff jump! Jump off a cliff and swing into a canyon on the 109m high Canyon Swing. This is sure to get your heart pumping!

Skydiving
Queenstown
420-520NZD per person
Enjoy the awe-inspiring beauty of Queenstown from an eagle's perspective. Suit up, get briefed and board the prop plane to soar high about the rugged alpine landscape. Strap onto your instructor, take a breath and leap into a once-in-a-lifetime free fall. This is what a natural high truly feels like!

Day 17 Queenstown/Te Anau

Travel to the fiords of the South Island. Enjoy the stunning scenery of Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound from the deck of a boat, then return to Te Anau for the night.

Private Vehicle
Queenstown – Milford Sound4h30m
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Milford Sound Cruise
Milford Sound2h-2h30m
Enjoy the stunning scenery of Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound from the deck of a boat. Recharge your camera and be ready to shoot stunning photos of waterfalls, mountains stretching up to the sky and down to the sea and then search for dolphins and seals. This place is any artist's dream!

Private Vehicle
Milford Sound – Te Anau2h120km
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Optional Activities - Day 17
Fiordland Cinema 'Ata Whenua'
Te Anau
10NZD per person
Discover the Fiorland Work Heritage Area during this 32-minute film. The remote region has jaw-dropping scenery – experience it through stunning cinematography and aerial shots.

Day 18 Te Anau/Central Otago District

Morning departure to Central Otago to spend the afternoon cycling 42km (26 mi) along the historic Otago Rail Trail.

Cycle the Rail Trail, a route created specially for mountain biking. Pass through scenery unspoiled by traffic and not visible from any roads.

Private Vehicle
Te Anau – Central Otago District4h30m315km
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Otago Rail Trail Cycling
Otago Central Rail Trail5h-6h 42km
Drive to one of the best starting points of the Historic Otago Rail Trail. Spend the better part of the day cycling through stunning scenery along 42km of the old rail trail. Cycle through scenery unspoiled by traffic and not visible from any roads.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 19 Central Otago District/Christchurch

Walk around Christchurch this afternoon and learn about how the city was rebuilt following an earthquake in 2011. Enjoy some free time this evening.

Private Vehicle
Central Otago District – Christchurch7h520km
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Your G for Good Moment: Resourceful Ōtautahi Walking Tour
Explore lesser-known paths around Christchurch on this walking tour of the city led by a member of Rekindle — a social enterprise where resourcefulness skills are shared among members to build self-confidence and create art out of under-valued materials. The hands-on, workshop-based environment keeps everyone engaged and helps to strengthen the community.

Free Time
Christchurch
Spend the evening exploring Christchurch during free time.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 20 Christchurch/Kaikoura

Transfer to Kaikoura, with optional whale- or dolphin-watching in the afternoon.

Early start to drive the scenic coastal road up to Kaikoura.

A free afternoon can also be spent swimming with dolphins or taking a scenic flight over the peninsula. Bird watchers will be pleased to know that big ocean birds such as albatrosses, petrels, and shearwaters frequent the area.

Hikers can opt to go on several day hikes in the Seaward Kaikoura mountains.

Private Vehicle
Christchurch – Kaikoura2h30m
Drive from Christchurch to Kaikoura

Free Time
Kaikoura Afternoon
A free afternoon can also be spent swimming with dolphins, visiting a colony of Southern Fur seals, or taking a scenic flight over the peninsula. Bird watchers will be pleased to know that big ocean birds such as albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters frequent the area.

Optional Activities - Day 20
Hiking
Kaikoura2h-3h 3km
Free
Set off along the hiking trail to take in the beautiful scenery along the Kaikoura Peninsula walkway.

Sea Kayaking
Kaikoura
140NZD per person
Get to know your surroundings better from the water and sea kayak near Kaikoura.

Scenic Flight
Kaikoura
225NZD per person
Take a 30-minute flight and set off to search for whales, dolphins, and other marine life. On land, you'll see Maori sites, Kaikoura town and New Zealand's southern fur seals.

Swimming With Dolphins
Kaikoura3h-4h
230NZD per person
Hop aboard a boat and head out to the open seas to search for wild dusky dolphins. Depending on conditions, most groups have 20-40 minutes of swim time with the dolphins.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 21 Kaikoura/Wellington

Transfer to Picton and take the ferry back to Wellington where the tour ends upon arrival.

Please book any onward travel after 21:00.

Private Vehicle
Kaikoura – Picton2h150km
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ferry
Picton – Wellington3h92km
Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Departure Day
Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with any onward travel arrangements you require.

Meals included: Breakfast

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Highlights

Cycle through stunning Karangahake Gorge, visit bubbling mud pools in a geothermal area, hike the Tongariro Crossing and Routeburn Track, kayak along the Whanganui River, try exhilarating adventures in Queenstown, cycle the rail trail in Central Otago

Dossier Disclaimer

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Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Important Notes

1. Please note that this tour combines with other G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been traveling together with G Adventures, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another G Adventures tour, after your trip concludes.

2. Please be aware that wifi and internet access is not as readily available in New Zealand as in other parts of the world. There are often additional charges to connect to the internet, and speeds may be slower than what you are used to.

3. Over public holidays in Australia and New Zealand (such as Christmas, New Years Day, Easter, and Anzac Day) there may be some limitations of services and disruptions to schedules. In general our tours still operate effectively over public holidays, but there may be closures of optional activities and restaurants, and slight itinerary adjustments in order to provide all tour inclusions.

Group Leader Description

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders, otherwise known as a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). The CEO will be the group manager, leader and driver - this person is experienced in the routes travelled and will organize and lead the meal preparations and has experience in cooking a variety of local and international dishes for large groups.

As the group coordinator and manager, the aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. They will also offer suggestions for things to do and to see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

Group Size Notes

Max 16, avg 12

Meals Included

16 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 6 dinners

Meals

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. The above information applies to G Adventures group trips. For Independent trips please check the itinerary for details of meals included. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

Please note that most included breakfasts will be continental style, and consist of cereal, milk, bread and spreads, juice, tea and instant coffee. Having a simple breakfast together most days allows us the flexibility to get on the road early and get from point A to B all that much faster.

Transport

Private vehicle, jet boat, kayak, bicycle, ferry, water taxi, walking.

About our Transportation

Our vans are mini-coaches. Occasionally with smaller group sizes we will use smaller, equally comfortable 13-seater vehicles. All mini-coaches tow a trailer for luggage and camping equipment (when needed). All groups have one CEO/Driver.

The vehicles are factory built with comfortable seats and air-conditioning. It is mandatory to wear a seatbelt while riding in our vehicles.

Solo Travellers

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Accommodation

Hotels/hostels (17 nts, some multi-share), lodges (2 nts), Maori village (1 nt, multi-share).

My Own Room

Not available on this tour

About Accommodation

Multi-share accommodation (typically 4-6 people per room) is very common in New Zealand and is the way you will be spending most of your nights. We have specifically chosen unique accommodations to give local flavour to your trip.

Accommodation will be varied throughout your adventure. Towels and soap are not always provided at overnight stops, so it's best to bring your own for bathing. Bathroom and showering facilities are shared and are very rarely en-suite.

Joining Hotel

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

Joining Instructions

By Taxi: $70-80, approximately 30 minutes.

By Shuttle Bus: $33 for 1 person, $8 per additional. The "Super Shuttle" is a 24-hour service that takes approximately 1 hour. The shuttle waits outside of the terminal and provides door-to-door service.

By Skybus: $16 per person. Leaves from outside the airport terminal every 10-15 minutes and takes approximately 1 hour.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other then your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time.

Your CEO will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

Arrival Complications

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact G Adventures during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our local office in Melbourne. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so we may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS
G Adventures Local Office and after office hours emergency number

From outside Australia: +61 432 705 621
From within Australia: 0432 705 621

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local operations manager, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found here.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100
Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000
Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000
Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618
Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307
Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What to Take

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible.

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. Heavy luggage is not recommended for the health of the CEO, who will take a lead in loading the storage trailer. Due to space in the trailer, we will not be able to accommodate more than one piece of main luggage per person. A good size day-pack (20-35L) is also essential to carry your personal gear for the day, as access to luggage between destinations will be limited. This daypack will be used to carry your personal gear for the day, your lunch and a water bottle.

Packing List

Cold Weather:
• Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
• Scarf
• Snow Boots
• Warm gloves
• Warm hat
• Warm layers
• Warm waterproof jacket

Documents:
• Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
• Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
• Passport (required) (With photocopies)
• Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
• Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:
• Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
• Binoculars (optional)
• Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
• Cash, credit and debit cards
• Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
• Ear plugs
• First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
• Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
• Fleece top/sweater
• Footwear
• Hat
• Locks for bags
• Long pants/jeans
• Moneybelt
• Outlet adapter

• Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
• Reusable water bottle
• Shirts/t-shirts
• Sleepwear
• Small travel towel
• Sunglasses
• Swimwear
• Watch and alarm clock
• Waterproof backpack cover
• Windproof rain jacket

Health & Safety:
• Hand sanitizer (required)
• Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
• Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)
• Quick Covid Test/Antigen Test

Light Hiking:
• Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
• Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)
• Sleeping bag liner/sleep sheet

Warm Weather:
• Sandals/flip-flops
• Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
• Sturdy water shoes/sandals
• Sun hat/bandana
• Swimwear

Note: The weather in New Zealand varies depending on the season. Make sure to check the forecast for the time you will be visiting and pack weather appropriate clothing for your trip.

Visas and Entry Requirements

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page here

Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

Money Exchange

The currency in New Zealand is the New Zealand Dollar (NZD).

Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere in New Zealand and can be used to purchase small and large items. When purchasing products or services with a foreign credit card you may be charged additional fees by your credit card company for foreign purchases.

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Both Visa and Master Cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work check with your bank before you travel. A visit to an ATM can be arranged on Day 1 and other days of the trip.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of local currency (preferably smaller bills, 5's, 10's and 20's), traveller’s cheques and credit cards is best. Currency exchange is best obtained prior to travel or at the airport, currency exchange is easy to find in New Zealand in the gateway cities and most banks do accommodate.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com

Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD $200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Tipping

It is not customary in New Zealand or Australia to tip service providers, but if you do experience outstanding service it is good to do so. Such service would only usually be in places like quality restaurants and it would be very rare that you would tip more than 10%. Unless specifically asked to do so at the time (by your CEO) - do not tip your local guides. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer did an outstanding job, you may consider a small tip - but it certainly isn't expected.

Optional Activities

Waiheke Island
- Waiheke Island Excursion (45-130NZD per person)

Auckland
- Auckland Sailing: America's Cup Experience (Pre Tour) (195NZD per person)

Rotorua
- Mountain Biking (35-130NZD per person)
- Zorbing (45-75NZD per person)
- Hells Gate Geothermal Park (35-90NZD per person)
- Hobbiton Tour (112NZD per person)
- Whitewater Rafting (115NZD per person)
- Hot Springs (30-50NZD per person)

Franz Josef
- Hiking (Free)
- Horseback Riding (65-150NZD per person)
- Heli Scenic Flight with Snow Landing (330-425NZD per person)
- Franz Josef Glacier Valley Walk (79NZD per person)
- Franz Josef Kayaking (130NZD per person)

Wanaka
- Puzzling World Visit (27-30NZD per person)
- Scenic Bike Ride (60NZD per person)
- Skydiving
- Scenic Boat Cruise
- Hiking

Queenstown
- Bungee Jumping (265-450NZD per person)
- Paragliding (210NZD per person)
- Shotover Jet Boating (159NZD per person)
- Skydiving (420-520NZD per person)
- Mountain Biking (31.50-140.00NZD per person)
- Vineyard Tour (210-230NZD per person)
- Ziptrek (120-170NZD per person)
- Canyon Swing (205NZD per person)
- Scenic Horse Riding Tour (220NZD per person)
- Gondola Ride (52-79NZD per person)
- Shotover Canyon Swing (259NZD per person)

Te Anau
- Fiordland Cinema 'Ata Whenua' (10NZD per person)

Kaikoura
- Hiking (Free)
- Scenic Flight (225NZD per person)
- Swimming With Dolphins (230NZD per person)

Kaikoura
- Sea Kayaking (140NZD per person)

Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewelery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. Read more about travel safety for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. G Adventures can provide you with the appropriate coverage. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

Planeterra Foundation - the non-profit partner of G Adventures

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures’ itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra’s largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with Planeterra Foundation.

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating $1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customersolutions@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for Planeterra's monthly news to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

Minimum Age

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

International Flights

Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.